

## Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers-A Faith in Action Program

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Chairman Kevin J. Martin Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Martin:

I am writing to commend CBS Radio – Pittsburgh for its commitment to community involvement by providing the citizens who comprise its listening audience with timely information about important local community resources. The programs I supervise at Family Services of Western Pennsylvania provide free supportive services to help older adults in Allegheny County maximize their independence and overcome their isolation. Because we offer these at no cost to the consumer, I am especially grateful for the free public relations opportunity CBS Radio recently afforded my organization.

In early April, CBS Radio's Public Service Director, Ms. Tracey Morgan, invited me to participate in a segment of her CBS Sunday Magazine show. She wanted to help spread the word about Family Services' Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers initiative, a *Faith in Action* program that matches volunteers with older adults who need assistance with tasks such as grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, and managing correspondence. IVC volunteers also make friendly visits and phone calls to help care receivers stave off loneliness.

Ms. Morgan interviewed me for a 15-minute Sunday Magazine segment that aired on April 20, 2008. During our discussion, I had the opportunity to educate listeners about the plight of the frail elderly, let family caregivers know that IVC is here to support them, issue a call to action, and stump for volunteers. I enjoyed talking with Ms. Morgan, and I hope we can work together again in the future.

Since appearing on Sunday Magazine, IVC has received numerous requests for assistance and inquiries about our volunteer opportunities from callers who tuned in to the broadcast. I am truly grateful for the generosity CBS Radio showed in making a forum available for IVC to raise awareness of the challenges the frail elderly must face daily and to let listeners know how we – and they - can help meet those needs.

Sincerely,

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Coordinator, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

